

CLAIMS

1 1. A method to electronically deliver a message from a sender to an intended
2 recipient based on tracking movement of a mobile object, the method comprising:
3 obtaining a message provided by the sender;
4 obtaining a location designated by the sender for delivery of said message;
5 tracking a specified mobile object having a position-determining device that
6 determines its own current position, and which transmits its then current position at
7 preset time intervals;
8 determining from the transmitted current position whether the specified mobile
9 object has reached said designated location; and
10 initiating a procedure for automatic delivery of said message electronically to the
11 intended recipient upon said specified mobile object being determined to have reached
12 said designated location.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said specified mobile object is the
2 intended recipient.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said specified mobile object is identified
2 by the sender, and is other than the intended recipient.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the intended recipient is a stationary
2 object.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the intended recipient is animate.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the intended recipient is inanimate.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the intended recipient is an electrically
2 actuatable device.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said message is a control signal to
2 actuate said electrically actuatable device.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said message is at least one of data, text,
2 audio and video.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein a mode in which said message is
2 reproduced for the intended recipient is in accordance with a setting controlled by the
3 intended recipient.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein delivery of said message is controlled in
2 accordance with a delivery rule provided by the sender.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein initiating said procedure for automatic
2 delivery of said message upon detection of said specified mobile object reaching said
3 designated location message comprises processing said delivery rule.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining of the message comprises
2 receiving and storing a message based on input from the sender.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining of the message comprises
2 retrieving a message from among a plurality of stored messages based on input from
3 the sender.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining of the designated location
2 comprises obtaining a location based on input from the sender.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining of the designated location
2 comprises retrieving a location from among a plurality of stored locations based on input
3 from the sender.

1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining an identification of the
2 intended recipient based on input from the sender.

1 18. The method of claim 11, wherein said rule includes instructions for
2 repeating delivery of said message.

1 19. The method of claim 11, wherein said intended recipient includes a
2 plurality of recipients identified by the sender.

1 20. A method for delivering a message with an electronic communication
2 system servicing a plurality of clients in a client-server relationship, wherein the system
3 includes a server, and wherein each of the clients includes a position-determining
4 device, the method comprising:

5 obtaining, at the server, a message based on input from a first client;

6 obtaining, at the server, a designated location based on input from said first
7 client;

8 obtaining, at the server, an identification of a second client as the intended
9 recipient of said message, based on input from said first client;

10 obtaining, at the server, identification of a mobile client to be tracked for delivery
11 of said message;

12 determining, from the position-determining device of said client to be tracked for
13 delivery of said message, whether said client being tracked has arrived at said
14 designated location; and

15 automatically triggering electronic delivery of said message to the intended
16 recipient upon said tracked mobile client being determined to have arrived at said
17 designated location.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said client to be tracked for delivery of
2 said message is said second client, and

3 wherein said step of obtaining identification of a client to be tracked for delivery of
4 said message comprises deriving said identification from the identification of said
5 second client.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein said step of obtaining identification of a
2 client to be tracked for delivery of said message comprises obtaining said identification
3 based on input from the first client.

1 23. A method for delivering a message with an electronic communication
2 system servicing a plurality of clients in a client-server relationship, wherein the system
3 includes a server, and wherein each of the clients includes a position-determining
4 device, the method comprising:

5 obtaining, at the server, a message based on input from a first client;

6 obtaining, at the server, a designated location based on input from said first
7 client;

8 obtaining, at the server, a delivery rule based on input from said first client for
9 delivering said message to an intended recipient, wherein said delivery rule includes
10 arrival of a specified mobile client at said designated location;

11 determining, from the position-determining device of said mobile client, whether
12 said specified mobile client has arrived at said designated location; and

13 upon said specified mobile client being determined to have arrived at said
14 designated location, triggering electronic delivery of said message to the intended
15 recipient, based upon said delivery rule.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising obtaining, at the server,
2 identity of said specified mobile client based on input from said first client.

1 25. The method of claim 23, further comprising obtaining, at the server,
2 identity of the intended recipient based on input from said first client.

1 26. A method for automatically delivering a message electronically,
2 comprising:

3 obtaining an electronic message based on input from a sender;
4 obtaining an intended recipient, a designated location, and a selected mobile
5 object having a position- determining device, based on input from the sender; and
6 using position-determining technology to automatically deliver said message
7 electronically to the intended recipient upon the selected mobile object being
8 determined to have arrived at the designated location.

1 27. A method for automatically delivering a message electronically from a
2 sender with a communication system servicing a plurality of potential recipients, and
3 based upon position-determining technology, comprising:

4 obtaining a message based on input from the sender;
5 obtaining a designated location based on input from the sender;
6 obtaining identification of at least one recipient, from among the plurality of
7 potential recipients, specified based on input from the sender as an intended recipient of
8 the message;

9 obtaining a selected mobile object specified based on input from the sender; and
10 automatically delivering said message electronically to said intended recipient
11 based upon the position of said selected mobile object, as derived from the position-
12 determining technology, relative to said designated location.

1 28. A method for automatically delivering a message electronically from a
2 sender with a communication system servicing a plurality of potential recipients, and
3 based upon position-determining technology, comprising:

4 obtaining a message based on input from the sender;
5 obtaining a designated location based on input from the sender;
6 obtaining identification of at least two recipients, from among the plurality of
7 potential recipients, specified based on input from the sender as intended recipients of
8 the message; and

9 automatically delivering said message electronically to one of said intended
10 recipients based upon the position of said one of the intended recipients relative to
11 another of said intended recipients, as derived from the position-determining
12 technology.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein each of the plurality of potential
2 recipients includes a position-determining device to determine its current position.

1 30. A method for delivering a message with an electronic communication
2 system, wherein the system includes a server, and with the system servicing a plurality
3 of clients in a client-server relationship, at least some of the clients being mobile and
4 having a position-determining device, the method comprising:
5 obtaining, at the server, a message based on input from a first client;
6 obtaining, at the server, an identification of a second, mobile client as the
7 intended recipient of said message, based on input from said first client;
8 obtaining, at the server, an identification of a third client, based on input from said
9 first client; and
10 automatically triggering electronic delivery of said message to the intended
11 recipient upon said second, mobile client being determined to have arrived at a
12 designated position relative to the position of said third client.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said third client is also a mobile client
2 having a position-determining device.

1 32. The method of claim 30, wherein said first and second clients are the
2 same client.

1 33. A method for operating an electronic communications system servicing a
2 plurality of users for enabling any sender who is a user to automatically deliver a
3 message electronically to an intended recipient who is also a user, based on the tracked
4 position of a specified mobile object, comprising:

5 processing and storing message data provided by the sender;
6 tracking the position of the specified mobile object; and
7 automatically delivering a message electronically to the intended recipient upon
8 arrival of the specified mobile object at a designated location.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein said message data includes said
2 message, said intended recipient, and a delivery rule.

1 35. The method of claim 33, wherein said message data includes said
2 message.

1 36. The method of claim 33, wherein said message data includes said
2 intended recipient.

1 37. The method of claim 33, wherein said message data includes a delivery
2 rule.

1 38. The method of claim 33, wherein said message data includes identity of
2 said specified mobile object.

1 39. The method of claim 33, wherein said message data includes said
2 designated location.

1 40. Apparatus to electronically deliver a message from a sender to an
2 intended recipient based on tracking movement of a mobile object, the apparatus
3 comprising:

4 means for obtaining a message provided by the sender;
5 means for obtaining a location designated by the sender for delivery of said
6 message;
7 means for tracking a specified mobile object having a position-determining device
8 that determines its own current position, and which transmits its then current position at
9 preset time intervals;

means for determining from the transmitted current position whether the specified mobile object has reached said designated location; and

means for initiating a procedure for automatic delivery of said message electronically to the intended recipient upon said specified mobile object being determined to have reached said designated location.

41. Apparatus for delivering a message with an electronic communication system servicing a plurality of clients in a client-server relationship, wherein the system includes a server, and wherein each of the clients includes a position-determining device, the apparatus comprising:

means for obtaining, at the server, a message based on input from a first client;

means for obtaining, at the server, a designated location based on input from said first client;

means for obtaining, at the server, an identification of a second client as the intended recipient of said message, based on input from said first client;

means for obtaining, at the server, identification of a mobile client to be tracked for delivery of said message;

means for determining, from the position-determining device of said client to be tracked for delivery of said message, whether said client being tracked has arrived at said designated location; and

means for automatically triggering electronic delivery of said message to the intended recipient upon said tracked mobile client being determined to have arrived at said designated location.

42. Apparatus for delivering a message with an electronic communication system servicing a plurality of clients in a client-server relationship, wherein the system includes a server, and wherein each of the clients includes a position-determining device, the apparatus comprising:

means for obtaining, at the server, a message based on input from a first client;

6 means for obtaining, at the server, a designated location based on input from
7 said first client;

8 means for obtaining, at the server, a delivery rule based on input from said first
9 client for delivering said message to an intended recipient, wherein said delivery rule
10 includes arrival of a specified mobile client at said designated location;

11 means for determining, from the position-determining device of said mobile client,
12 whether said specified mobile client has arrived at said designated location; and

13 means for upon said specified mobile client being determined to have arrived at
14 said designated location, triggering electronic delivery of said message to the intended
15 recipient, based upon said delivery rule.

1 43. Apparatus for automatically delivering a message electronically,
2 comprising:

3 means for obtaining an electronic message based on input from a sender;

4 means for obtaining an intended recipient, a designated location, and a selected
5 mobile object having a position-determining device, based on input from the sender;
6 and

7 means for using position-determining technology to automatically deliver said
8 message electronically to the intended recipient upon the selected mobile object being
9 determined to have arrived at the designated location.

1 44. Apparatus for automatically delivering a message electronically from a
2 sender with a communication system servicing a plurality of potential recipients, and
3 based upon position-determining technology, comprising:

4 means for obtaining a message based on input from the sender;

5 means for obtaining a designated location based on input from the sender;

6 means for obtaining identification of at least one recipient, from among the
7 plurality of potential recipients, specified based on input from the sender as an intended
8 recipient of the message;

9 means for obtaining a selected mobile object specified based on input from the
10 sender; and

11 means for automatically delivering said message electronically to said intended
12 recipient based upon the position of said selected mobile object, as derived from the
13 position-determining technology, relative to said designated location.

1 45. Apparatus for automatically delivering a message electronically from a
2 sender with a communication system servicing a plurality of potential recipients, and
3 based upon position-determining technology, comprising:

4 means for obtaining a message based on input from the sender;

5 means for obtaining a designated location based on input from the sender;

6 means for obtaining identification of at least two recipients, from among the
7 plurality of potential recipients, specified based on input from the sender as intended
8 recipients of the message; and

9 means for automatically delivering said message electronically to one of said
10 intended recipients based upon the position of said one of the intended recipients
11 relative to another of said intended recipients, as derived from the position-determining
12 technology.

1 46. Apparatus for delivering a message with an electronic communication
2 system, wherein the system includes a server, and with the system servicing a plurality
3 of clients in a client-server relationship, at least some of the clients being mobile and
4 having a position-determining device, the apparatus comprising:

5 means for obtaining, at the server, a message based on input from a first client;

6 means for obtaining, at the server, an identification of a second, mobile client as
7 the intended recipient of said message, based on input from said first client;

8 means for obtaining, at the server, an identification of a third client, based on
9 input from said first client; and

10 means for automatically triggering electronic delivery of said message to the
11 intended recipient upon said second, mobile client being determined to have arrived at a
12 designated position relative to the position of said third client.

1 47. Apparatus for operating an electronic communications system servicing a
2 plurality of users for enabling any sender who is a user to automatically deliver a
3 message electronically to an intended recipient who is also a user, based on the tracked
4 position of a specified mobile object, comprising:

5 means for processing and storing message data provided by the sender;

6 means for tracking the position of the specified mobile object; and

7 means for automatically delivering a message electronically to the intended
8 recipient upon arrival of the specified mobile object at a designated location.